

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Data C generated by scrambling user-desired digital data
P and a control word CW_p corresponding to the number of
reproductions p are recorded on recording media. When
creating a master, a user has already been charged for the
number of reproductions p . A decryption block decrypts the
control word CW_p , which is read from the recording media, to
10 CW_0 . A de-scrambler uses the decryption control word CW_0 to
decrypt the digital data P for output to a reproduction unit.
After confirming the end of reproduction, the decryption block
writes a control word $CW_{(p-1)}$ back to the recording media. The
recording media may be reproduced p times with no need for
15 communication between a reproduction device and an accounting
manager.

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